

THIS WEEK IS WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK IN INDIANA. THE BEST WAY FOR YOU TO STAY SAFE AND WARM OUTDOORS IS FOR YOU TO BE PREPARED.

MONITOR WEATHER FORECASTS. THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ISSUES OUTLOOKS ON STORM POTENTIAL DAYS BEFORE IT ARRIVES. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WINTER WEATHER WATCHES GIVE UP TO TWO DAYS NOTICE OF IMPENDING STORMS. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WINTER WEATHER WARNINGS OR ADVISORIES GIVE UP TO 24 HOURS NOTICE OF SIGNIFICANT WEATHER SOON TO IMPACT YOUR AREA.

DRESS WARMLY...WEARING SEVERAL LAYERS OF CLOTHES WHICH IS WARMER THAN A SINGLE THICK LAYER. WEAR GLOVES...A HAT AND SCARF OR TURTLENECK TO MINIMIZE EXPOSED SKIN.

TRY AND STAY DRY. FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING THAT CAN KEEP YOU DRY CAN PREVENT HYPOTHERMIA. CLOTHING THAT INSULATES WELL OR REMOVES BODY PERSPIRATION ALSO REDUCES YOUR CHANCE OF DEVELOPING FROSTBITE OR HYPOTHERMIA.

IF YOU ARE CAUGHT OUTSIDE AWAY FROM SHELTER...YOUR MAIN CONCERNS ARE TO STAY WARM AND DRY. PREPARE A LEAN-TO OR SNOW CAVE TO HELP PROTECT YOU FROM PRECIPITATION AND WIND. BUILD A FIRE FOR HEAT AND TO ATTRACT ATTENTION.

FOR YOUR VEHICLE...HAVE IT WINTERIZED. GOOD TIRES IMPROVE STEERING ABILITY AND SHORTEN BRAKING DISTANCE ON SLIPPERY ROADS. IF YOUR VEHICLE HAS ANTI-LOCK BRAKES...TEST THEM SO YOU KNOW HOW THEY WORK IN EMERGENCY STOPS. FREQUENTLY CHECK WINDOW WASHER FLUID LEVELS THROUGHOUT THE WINTER SO YOU DON'T RUN OUT WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST.

PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE FOR VEHICLES CAN REDUCE THE CHANCES OF ENCOUNTERING CAR TROUBLE. MOST DRIVERS DON'T THINK ABOUT MAINTENANCE UNTIL STRANDED ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.

- CHECK TIRE PRESSURE AND TREAD DEPTH.
- CHECK BATTERY...EXHAUST SYSTEM...HEATER AND DEFROSTER. ENSURE BATTERY IS NOT TOO OLD AND THAT THE TERMINALS ARE TIGHT AND FREE OF CORROSION.
- CHECK ANTIFREEZE. MAKE SURE THAT 50/50 ANTIFREEZE-WATER MIXTURE IS AT ITS PROPER RADIATOR LEVEL.
- CHANGE OIL EVERY 3000 TO 5000 MILES.
- CHECK WINDSHIELD WIPERS AND BLADES. REPLACE BLADES EACH YEAR AND ENSURE EXTRA WIPER FLUID IS ON HAND.
- KEEP AN EMERGENCY KIT IN THE VEHICLE THAT INCLUDES AT A MINIMUM A FLASHLIGHT...BLANKET... JUMPER CABLES...CLOTHES...TOOL KIT AND FOOD.

THE BEST WAY TO STAY SAFE IS TO HAVE A PLAN...TO KNOW YOUR LIMITS AND TO USE COMMON SENSE. BE WEATHER-READY. ON SATURDAY WE WILL REVIEW THE ITEMS COVERED THIS WEEK.

VISIT [GETPREPARED.IN.GOV](https://www.getprepared.in.gov) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WINTER SAFETY.